

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee 26th March 2018

Item number: 9

Title: Update on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review of Finsbury Park Events

Report authorised by: Stephen McDonnell, Assistant Director of Environmental Services & Community Safety

Lead Officer: Andrea Keeble; Commissioning Manager for Active Communities

Ward(s) affected: Harringay Ward and Stroud Green Ward

Report for Key/ Non Key Decision: N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 Over the summer of 2015 a Review of Finsbury Park Events was carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and a number of recommendations were made (as detailed in Appendix 1).
- 1.2 This report provides a further update (the first update was presented in March 2016) on actions that were agreed by Cabinet on 15 December 2015 (attached as Appendix 1) in response to implementing the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 In December 2015 the Council welcomed the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as a positive contribution to addressing the needs of the local community while major events are held in Finsbury Park.
- 2.2 At that same meeting the Council agreed a number of actions to implement the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review of Finsbury Park Events.
- 2.3 I note the progress made to date by officers and members.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the progress made to date to achieve their recommendations (attached as Appendix 1).

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 n/a

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 n/a

6. Background information

6.1 Haringey's Outdoor Events Policy was introduced in 2014, and since then the council has worked closely with statutory bodies, stakeholders and partners to ensure that together we successfully implement the Policy especially in regard to major events taking place within Finsbury Park.

6.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee review into Events in Finsbury Park was established:

(a) To understand the impact of recent events held in Finsbury Park to gain a greater understanding of the budget context for parks – including the income and where this money is spent – and how this is balanced against the impact of local people and businesses.

(b) To consider the position of Finsbury Park as a major London park contributing to city-wide events.

(c) To reflect on recent large events that have taken place in Finsbury Park, with particular focus on the following: planning and organisation; facilities; policing, security and crowd control; noise and complaints; transport, ingress and egress; damage and arrangements for remediation; community engagement.

(d) In light of the above, recommendations were made to the Council for improvements in the arrangements for future events that are consistent with the aims and objectives of Haringey's Outdoor Events Policy and see to minimise any potential adverse effects on the park.

7. Update on recommendations

7.1 The current position regarding the Committee's recommendations are contained in full in Appendix 1. The following summarises these key actions:

7.2 Recommendation 1 and 4 - A communications plan is reviewed annually which details how information about events is communicated to residents, businesses and stakeholders, across the three boroughs.

7.3 Recommendation 1 – A leaflet providing information on events, income generation and how people can contribute to decisions on income spend is distributed to approximately 13,000 residents, businesses and stakeholders annually in March.

7.4 Recommendation 2 – A number of frequently asked questions on events has been developed and is now available to view on the Council's website. These are reviewed twice a year in March and October.

- 7.5 Recommendation 3 – Terms of reference for the two new groups were written, and regular meetings of the stakeholder group take place. These meetings are chaired by a Councillor. Note that the local business stakeholder group is now amalgamated with the residents and local user stakeholder group, and this works well.
- 7.6 Membership of the stakeholder group is representative of all three boroughs.
- 7.7 Recommendation 5 – An independent acoustic consultant conducted a review into noise monitoring. Recommendations were implemented at subsequent events. Frequently asked questions regarding noise monitoring, how it is done etc have been developed and is now available on the Council website.
- 7.8 Recommendation 12 and 13 these have been implemented in full.
- 7.9 All other recommendations are being progressed, but note that the ongoing legal challenges have slowed progress on recommendations 14 and 15.

8. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 8.1 Implementations of recommendations contribute to policy and practice primarily in relation to Priority 3 of the Corporate Plan: ‘A clean, well maintained and safe borough where people are proud to live and work’.
- 8.2 In addition, there are links to the Corporate Plan in relation to:
Priority 1: ‘Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life...’
Priority 2: ‘Enable all adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives’
Priority 4: ‘Drive growth and employment from which everyone can benefit’
- 8.3 The Medium Term Financial Plan sets out an increase of £600,000 of income during the period up to March 2018. All money raised by events is ring fenced back to the Parks budget to maintain and improve parks in the borough.

9. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

- 9.1 Finance and Procurement
Since 2015, implementing the agreed recommendations, has been contained within existing budgets. If this subsequently proves not to be the case then funding will be taken from events income.
- 9.2 Legal
Under Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 (“LGA”), Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to make reports or recommendations to Cabinet on matters which affect the Council’s area or the inhabitants of its area. Overview and Scrutiny Committee must by notice in writing require Cabinet to consider the report and recommendations.

Under Section 9FE of the LGA, there is a duty on Cabinet to respond to the Report, indicating what (if any) action Cabinet proposes to take, within 2 months of receiving the report and recommendations.

No specific legal implications arise in relation to the recommendations made and the Cabinet response set out in Appendix 1.

9.3 Equality

- (i) The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- (ii) Haringey's Outdoor Events Policy was agreed by Cabinet in December 2013. An equality screening tool was completed in regard to the proposed policy and that the proposal had no impact on protected characteristics other than religion or belief.
- (iii) The Outdoor Events Policy retains provision that organisations professing a religion or a belief can hire the park like any other group, but they cannot book the park primarily for an act of worship. Whilst this could have the effect of discouraging religious or belief organisations from using the park primarily for an act of worship such as praying, such events could by their nature exclude others from attending the events or using the park more generally. Further, the policy does permit acts of worship where incidental to the overall event, for example a convention.
- (iv) Park users, in particular groups booking parks for events, are not monitored by protected characteristics. However, there was no evidence put forward during the review to suggest particular groups had experienced any disproportionate impact as a result of events taking place in Finsbury Park. In addition the Outdoor Events Policy aims to promote all events as inclusive to the whole community. For example, events for Friends groups are free while charges to community groups have been reduced.
- (v) To support this, a number of the Scrutiny recommendations have been put forward to help foster good relations, by promoting understanding between people from different groups, by developing a mixed and diverse range of events for Finsbury Park, and by identifying opportunities that help advance equality of opportunity.

10. Use of Appendices

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – Responses and updates to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report recommendations.

11. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- a. Report of Overview and Scrutiny Committee –Finsbury Park Events Scrutiny Project -

[http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/\\$CoverReportFinsburyParkEventsScrutinyProject2.docx.pdf](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/$CoverReportFinsburyParkEventsScrutinyProject2.docx.pdf)

- b. Finsbury Park Events Scrutiny Project: Appendix 1, 1a and 1b - [http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/\\$Appendix1FinalProjectReportwithAp1aandAp1b.docx.pdf](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/$Appendix1FinalProjectReportwithAp1aandAp1b.docx.pdf)
- c. Finsbury Park Events Scrutiny Project: Appendix 1c - <http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/Appendix1cFinsburyParkEventsScrutinyProject.pdf>
- d. Finsbury Park Events Scrutiny Project: Appendix 1d - <http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/Appendix1dTofRFinsburyParkEventsStakeholderGroup2.pdf>
- e. Finsbury Park Events Scrutiny Project: Appendix 2 - [http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/\\$Appendix2Recommendations.docx.pdf](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/$Appendix2Recommendations.docx.pdf)
- f. Haringey's Outdoor Events Policy - <http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000118/M00006442/AI00035723/OEPCLEAREDCOVERINGREPORT.pdf>
- g. Haringey's Health and Wellbeing strategy 2015 – 2018 - http://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/final_health_and_wellbeing_strategy_2015-18_0.pdf